

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 2 on page 1 with the following:

PRIORITY CLAIM TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

This patent claims priority as a **Continuation of** ~~divisional to~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,682,745 (corresponding to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/492,206, filed January 27, 2000). U.S. Patent No. 6,682,745, in turn, claims priority as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,120,775 (corresponding to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/123,735, filed July 28, 1998), which, in turn, claims priority to European Patent Application Nos. 97202365 (filed July 29, 1997) and 97202925 (filed September 24, 1997). U.S. Patent No. 6,682,745 also claims priority to European Patent Application No. 99200202 (filed January 26, 1999).”